

**Subject:** Submission to Support Farmers in their Fight to be legally allowed to Refuse miners-coal and gas access to their Land  
**Date:** Tuesday, 31 March 2015 11:30:00 AM

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Dear Committee,

Common sense should tell everyone that food is more important than coal and gas. This is especially true when we all know that renewable energy technologies would provide our power needs if more support was given to the industry.

Farmers should be supported to retain their land as going concerns to provide the food for Australia, without being overruled by mining companies of all persuasions from coming on to their land and proceeding to drill. These drilling processes destroy land and may pollute and indeed have polluted, our precious underground water aquifers.

I ask, "Why take the risk of pollution, when it isn't necessary?" "Why destroy land that is productive for food?"

Overseas governments are cutting back on fossil fuels usage and turning to other methods of power production and fuel production.

Just because we have coal and gas in the ground is not an excuse to keep digging up our land and devastating it.

We must keep our greenhouse emissions down and it is unprincipled to give other countries material to further raise the temperature of the atmosphere.

Please protect our farmlands and allow our farmers to say "No" to mining on their properties.

Dereka Ogden